

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A specimen collecting and testing device has a housing containing a test membrane. An elongated handle having a foam member is slidably received in the housing. Once the foam member obtains a specimen, the

5 ~~device is held vertically with the foam member pointing upwards and the handle with the foam member is drawn through the housing. In so doing,~~  
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specimen is expelled from the foam member and delivered to a fluid chamber positioned along the test membrane. The device is then positioned horizontally and specimen that collects in the fluid chamber passes through

10 an aperture in the fluid chamber and onto the test membrane located beneath the aperture. The test membrane may then be observed for optical changes in the case of an instant-type test, or removed for further processing. The device is particularly useful for collecting samples of urine or oral fluid for use in drug testing, pregnancy testing and the like; for

15 testing of specimen for any of a variety of analytes such as HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, etc.; and, for collecting samples of DNA for PCR testing.

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U.S. 5,283,038, U.S. 5,339,829, U.S. 5,376,337, U.S. 5,380,492, U.S. 5,393,496, U.S. 5,479,937 and U.S. 5,494,646.

In a copending application, U.S. Serial No. 08/712,682, a simple

5 device for collecting and delivering a specimen for diagnostic testing is described. In accordance with the disclosure, a specimen collecting device comprises an elongated foam member having a longitudinal axis and an uncompressed cross sectional area, the elongated foam member being circumscribed by a hollow tubular member along a portion of the

10 longitudinal axis, the hollow tubular member having a cross sectional area less than the uncompressed cross sectional area of the foam member so that the foam member is compressed along the circumscribed portion.

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*7/17/04* 15 In another copending application, U.S. Serial No. 08/869,105, an improved device for collecting and delivering a specimen for diagnostic testing is disclosed, wherein the device provides a simple and convenient method for extracting the sample from a foam member. According to the disclosure, an embodiment of a specimen collecting device includes an elongated foam member having a longitudinal axis and an uncompressed cross sectional area, the elongated foam member being circumscribed by a hollow tubular member along a portion of the longitudinal axis, the hollow tubular member having a cross sectional area less than the uncompressed cross sectional area of the foam member so that the foam member is compressed along the circumscribed portion. Around the hollow tubular

20 member is a flexible sleeve member having a first end that fits snugly around the hollow tubular member and a second end with an enlarged diameter that

25 can surround the uncompressed foam member. Conveniently, the sleeve